

# THE iNFORMER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES

# DDK FELLOWS NEWSLETTER

AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES

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The Fellows Advisory Board (FAB) in collaboration with the NIDDK Fellowship Office has started a monthly newsletter to announce events and news. If you would like to help write articles for the newsletter or have any questions or comments regarding the newsletter or FAB, please contact:

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## Reaching Out for Science by Christine M. Kiefer

As scientists we are frequently called upon to volunteer our time and expertise within the scientific community by reviewing grant applications and journal articles or training new members in the laboratory. At a recent FelCom Career Development seminar titled "Communicating Science: Tools for Scientists and Engineers", Tiffany Lohwater, Public Engagement Manager at AAAS, discussed some of the reasons for extending that volunteer effort outside the laboratory to the public.

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The Adventure in Science program is a hands-on science education program designed to show children ages 8-11 the fun of doing science. In a session focused on Genetics, students learn to extract DNA from strawberries using common household reagents like shampoo, table salt, and rubbing alcohol.

## Don't Miss the NIDDK Fellows' Retreat



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NIDDK Fellows Scientific Retreat will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay on March 24-26, 2010. Deadline for registration and abstract submission is February 1, 2010 and can be found at: <http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov/retreat/>. (Photo courtesy of Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa, and Marina)

**Continued on Page 3.**

## Reaching Out for Science, continued from page 1



Learning to communicate your research to non-scientists and students can provide you with a better awareness of how the public perceives science and bring more personal meaning to your work. Volunteering your time also provides an opportunity to practice a critical skill that may help you to fulfill the science outreach requirements of an increasing number of funding sources.

The need for science outreach, particularly outreach to students, has never been more pressing. Many of the critical issues facing society, from energy and climate control to health care and food shortages, have a strong base in science. Surveys conducted by the National Science Foundation indicate that while science and technology has advanced significantly, factual knowledge about science has not changed much over time, despite more than 80% of Americans stating that they have “a lot” or “some” interest in new scientific discoveries. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education does not benefit only the students who will pursue scientific, technical, or health-related careers. According to a January 2008 report from Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, education in the sciences teaches critical thinking, teamwork, and oral and written communication skills. As technology advances, these and other skills learned in the science classroom may provide a necessary competitive edge for a wide-range of 21<sup>st</sup> century employment opportunities.

A few days before the recent Thanksgiving holiday, President Obama launched his “Educate to Innovate” campaign, the latest action by the White House to increase funding and promote public-private partnerships that will boost science education. In his speech to students and leaders from the STEM community, the president emphasized his commitment to “making the improvement of STEM education over the next decade a national priority.” Are you ready to make it a priority in your own career? The following are just a few links to get you started.

**Scientists in Science Education** – a guide to help you start thinking about science education outreach <http://www.bsccs.org/pdf/bsccsise08.pdf>

**The NIH Office of Science Education** – look under DC Area Programs for a variety of outreach opportunities <http://science.education.nih.gov/>

**The USA Science and Engineering Festival** – coming to Washington D.C. in October 2010 <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>

**AAAS Communicating Science** - webinars, how-to tips, and additional resources <http://communicatingscience.aaas.org>

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## Technology Transfer at NIDDK by Chaya Pooput

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Cindy Fuchs and Johnalyn Lyles from the NIDDK Office of Technology Transfer and Development (OTTD) gave a presentation on “General Overview of the Technology Transfer Process at NIDDK”.

But what exactly is Technology Transfer? According to the definition from Wikipedia, “technology transfer is the process of sharing of skills, knowledge, technologies, methods of manufacturing,

*samples of manufacturing and facilities among governments and other institutions to ensure that scientific and technological developments are accessible to a wider range of users who can then further develop and exploit the technology into new products, processes, applications, materials or services”.*

So technology transfer represents movements of information, technologies and collaborations between government, academia and

industry for the public benefit.

Technology Transfer has increasingly become a priority over the past ten years, not only at NIH, but also throughout the government and academia. the objective is to place technology in the hands of the public, not only through publications, but also in a form that makes a difference in people’s lives.

**Continued on Page 4.**

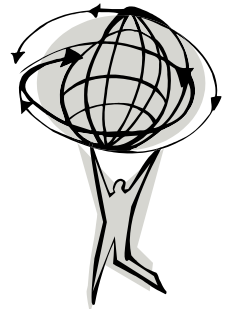
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## Register for the NIDDK Fellows' Scientific Retreat,

continued from page 1.

### REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fellows RETREAT for 2010.

- Register now and submit abstract later (before February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline).
- Free travel! Free room! Free Food!!!!
- Mix and mingle with exciting speakers and both current and former fellows in a beautiful resort setting (4-star Hotel and Spa).
- DJ party, Games Night and other entertainment.
- Five \$1000 travel awards for best Oral and Poster presentations.
- Career Development sessions.
- Keynote Speaker: Gregory Germino, M.D. Deputy Director of NIDDK.



## Extramural Review Branch Internships

Training in Scientific Review and Research Analysis,  
Opportunities for Research & Resume enhancement  
Develop Marketable Skills,  
Expand your Networking Contacts and Program Management.  
**Applicants contact Dr. Louis Simchowicz**  
**Director of the Fellowship Office**

## Nancy Nossal Awards

The Nancy Nossal Award is open to all Postdoctoral & Clinical Fellows. Details regarding eligibility, application requirements, and a list of previous award recipients are provided on the program website:

<http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov/audience/fellowship-award.shtml>

The next application deadline is Monday, March 1, 2010.

## Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series 2010 (WALS)

NIDDK will host another WALS speaker, Dr. David Altshuler, M.D., Ph.D., Harvard Medical School, Professor of Genetics and Medicine on March 31, 2010. Dr. Altshuler is one of the world's leading scientists in the study of human genetic variation and its application to disease, using tools and information from the Human Genome Project. He is also a founding member of the Broad Institute, and serves as a director of the Broad's program in Medical and Population Genetics. The title of the talk will be " Genomic Variation and the Inherited Basis of Common Disease." Please email [kvish@niddk.nih.gov](mailto:kvish@niddk.nih.gov), if you are interested in escorting or having lunch with the speaker.

## Upcoming Social Events:

Saturday February 6th: Chinese New Year celebration at National Geographic Museum. (Contact Chaya Pooput for more information at [pooputc@niddk.nih.gov](mailto:pooputc@niddk.nih.gov))

Wednesday February 17th: FelCom Happy Hour at BlackFinn from 6 to 10 pm.

For more information about social events contact Aurora Fountainhas:

[fountainhasa@niddk.nih.gov](mailto:fountainhasa@niddk.nih.gov)

## Technology Transfer at NIDDK by Chaya Pooput

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### We're on the Web!

#### NIDDK Fellowship Office:

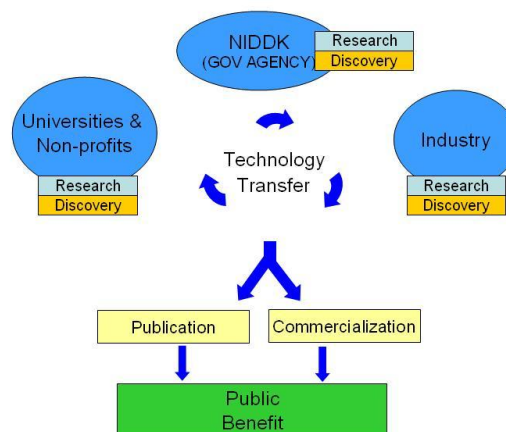
<http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov>

#### NIDDK Informer Newsletter:

<http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov/newsletter>

That's the goal of the NIH "bench to bedside" strategy.

The mission of the NIDDK OTTD is to enhance commercial potential of the NIDDK portfolio and facilitate greater promotion of inventions for further development and commercialization. They do this by helping the inventors identify prospective collaborators or licensees and to explore innovative ways to promote inventions. One of the NIDDK OTTD's goals is to create the Technology Evaluation Advisory Committee (TEAC) that assesses employee invention reports and make recommendations regarding patenting. The committee will be composed of NIDDK researchers and administrators. The TEAC differs from a Scientific Peer Review Committee as the TEAC will be mainly focused on the business side and, as Johnalyn



explained, "Patented inventions are considered tools of commerce and not actually a measure of good science."

In summary, while working for a government agency such as NIH, it may be thought that every discovery would be public domain, but scientists are actually encouraged to patent their discoveries with the government holding all rights, titles, and interest in and to the inventions.

So if you have just discovered something that may have a potential for commercialization, contact the office of tech transfer

as soon as possible before any kind of publications. With total confidentiality, the office will help you evaluate the merit and the prospect of commercialization of your invention, and will guide you through the long and seemingly complicated process of filing a patent.

Please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Johnalyn Lyles ([jlyles@niddk.nih.gov](mailto:jlyles@niddk.nih.gov)) for more information. Dr. Lyles will also be attending the 5<sup>th</sup> NIDDK Fellows Scientific Retreat as part of a career development discussion panel. Register for the retreat to hear more about this career path!

## PhD Comics

